# THE ACADEMY

WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED LITERATURE AND THE ENGLISH REVIEW

Edited by LORD ALFRED BRUCE DOUGLAS

No. 1975

MARCH 12, 1910

PRICE THREEPENCE

A NEW PENNY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER.

No. 1.

READY NEXT TUESDAY.

THE

# LITERARY POST

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Registered as a Newspaper in the United Kingdom, and at the New York Post Office as Second-Class Mail Matter. Trans-missible to Canada at the Canadian Magazine rate of Postage. Subscriptions: Inland 15s.; Foreign 17s. 6d. a year, post free.

All communications intended for the Editor should be sent to The Wilsford Press, Ltd., 63, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C. The Publishing Offices of THE ACADEMY are at 63, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C., to which address all business letters should

The Editor cannot undertake to return unsolicited Manuscripts which are not accompanied by a stamped addressed envelops. The receipt of a proof does not imply the acceptance of an article.

An INDEX to VOLUME LXXVI (Jan.-June, 1909) of THE ACADEMY will be forwarded post free for 1d. to any address on application to the Publisher, 33, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, W.C.

#### LIFE AND LETTERS

In the same open letter to Mr. Crosland which contains the libellous remarks in respect of which Mr. Crosland has issued writs on Messrs. Odhams, The John Bull Co., Ltd., and Bottomley, the following words appear: - " I fall back upon the opinion of Dr. Johnson that sonnets are 'not very suitable to the English language,' and that the words sonnetteer, sonneter, sonnetist, and sonnet-writer denote 'a small poet in contempt." These words have nothing to do with the alleged libel on Mr. Crosland, and consequently we are at liberty to comment on them. characteristic of the mentality of Bottomley and his henchmen that they should endeavour to shelter their own ignorance and incompetence in literary matters behind what is perhaps the most foolish thing that Dr. Johnson ever said. Dr. Johnson was a very great man; but he knew very little about poetry. A mere casual list of the great English sonnetteers will be sufficient to show this. Here are the names of a few of the great English writers of sonnets: Sir Thomas Wyatt, the great Earl of Surrey, Sir Philip Sydney, Drummond of Hawthornden, Shakespeare, Milton, Keats, Wordsworth, Rossetti, Matthew Arnold, and Swinburne. There are many more, but the names we have mentioned will be sufficient to abash even the cocksure impudence of Messrs. Bottomley, Vivian and Company, and to convince them of the wisdom of following the advice we gave them last week to stick to their own business and leave matters which are beyond their comprehension alone.

We are very glad that the Unionist party has decided not to contest the election of Mr. Rufus Isaacs to his seat at Reading. To have contested the election would have been an act of grave discourtesy to a very able and distinguished man who is deservedly popular on both sides of the House, and who has won for himself his great position at the Bar by methods which have never been inconsistent with the strictest and most honourable scrupulousness.

Any attempt to unseat Mr. Isaacs at the present moment could only have been attended with disaster and discredit to the Unionist party. The question of contesting the re-election of members of Parliament who are compelled to resign their seats on account of their elevation to a high office in the State is almost entirely a personal one. To contest the re-election of an honourable and high-minded opponent is, and always will be, a mistake from every point of view. It is far otherwise in the case of such wild-cat politicians as Mr. Winston Churchill, Mr. Lloyd George, or Mr. Ure. No quarter should be given to this type of politician, whether in public or in private life. Mr. Rufus Isaacs is quite another pair of horses, and THE ACADEMY is delighted to congratulate him upon his elevation to the post which he is so eminently fitted to adorn,

We are still without the long-promised writ of Greening, Limited. As we indicated last week, this writ was promised us as far back as July, 1909. In their recent letter to the press, Messrs. Greening asserted that aspersions had been cast upon them which they were not given the opportunity of removing. With a view to ascertaining what Messrs. Greening really mean by opportunity, we addressed to them on March 2 the following letter:-

We have seen a letter which appears in the correspondence columns of the Yorkshire Observer of Monday, February 28. In this letter you say that "aspersions" have been cast upon you which you were not given an opportunity of removing. We do not quite know what opportunity of removing the aspersions in question would induce you to issue a writ. But if there is anything we can do to help you in this direction we shall be very pleased to oblige. As it is, we shall continue to say publicly what we think of your business and methods, and we shall also continue to say that you did not bring an action against us because you dared not. Our advice to you is to see to it that you publish no more dubious books. This will be a great deal better for you and for the public than any amount of specious letters such as the one you appear to have sent to the Yorkshire Observer.

Over a week has elapsed since this letter was sent to Messrs. Greening, and they have not yet managed to excogitate a reply. Discretion, doubtless, is the better part of valour. One rather wonders that they have not sought the aid of that modest invoker of the Saints, Mr. A. E. Manning Foster, of the Re-Union Magazine, in their dilemma. Surely Mr. Foster's agile wits would have been equal to the occasion, and Manning Foster, or perhaps even Hannaford Bennett, of "Yoke" fame and the Century Press, might have rushed in where Greening (formerly Collins) and Hewson feared to tread. should have loved to have Messrs. Greening's legal document, because in our opinion it would be highly advantageous from the public point of view that the nature and intention of a considerable number of Messrs. Greening's publications should be discussed and pronounced upon by a legal tribunal. In the absence of Messrs. Greening's writ, however, we can scarcely go further than we have gone. For our own part we shall be quite content if Messrs. Greening will take to heart the latter part of our letter and live up to their own wonderful standard of "historic romances" and "innocuous domestic novels."

We have received the appended choice epistle from a person who describes himself as "Private Secretary." The letter is typed on paper which is headed T.P.'s Weekly:

DEAR SIR,—Mr. O'Connor has sent your two letters to Mr. Peter Keary, 17, Henrietta Street, Managing Director of M.A.P., to whom all communications should be addressed. Mr. O'Connor has had no control over M.A.P for several months, and he knows nothing about the paragraph to which you allude.—Yours truly.

Private Secretary.

The issue of M.A.P. for March 12 bears on its cover "Edited by T. P. O'Connor." Now, Mr. T. P. O'Connor either edits M.A.P. or he does not edit it. If he edits it he must have control over it. If he does not edit it and has had no control over it for several months, why is his name chalked up as editor? There is a shuffle or a subterfuge somewhere. It seems that M.A.P. is "fighting the white slave traffic." One is tempted in the face of the assertion of "Private Secretary," to fight the traffic in the names of editors who have had no control over their papers for several months.

Under the management of the late Mr. Morton, and more recently of Mr. Alfred Butt, the Palace Theatre has made a tradition for itself as a music-hall which is entirely free from the objectionable features which are only too easily associated with music-halls generally. The fact that Mr. Butt has always done his best to provide a high-class entertainment, and an entertainment devoid of offence, and the further fact that the Palace is one of the few music-halls in London which is without what is known as a Promenade, have placed the theatre in a quite enviable position and have secured for it the very best class of patronage. Broadly speaking, the Palace is known as a house to which a man may take his wife and daughters, and for that matter his grandmother, without running the risk of falling into the arms of persons whom he would rather not know when he happens to be out with his family, and without running the risk of shock to the family nerves or moral susceptibilities. The policy that Mr. Butt has kept in front of himself is a policy which is admirable and creditable from the point of view of the public interest, and it also happens to be a policy which has resulted in pecuniary success. A good honest policy always does result in pecuniary success-though, of course, the opinion of the witless and the vulgar is to the contrary. We do not wish to suggest that we have never seen at the Palace Theatre a turn which might not be fairly set down under the head of "sensational," or be said to border on the dubious. Miss Maud Allan's Salome dance was an instance in point. But Miss Maud Allan danced other dances beside the Salome dance, and she was sufficient of an artist and sufficient of a woman to relieve even the Salome dance from the taint of downright suggestiveness or impropriety.

In common with a good many people who saw Miss Maud Allan's presentation of Salome, we could ourselves have dispensed with it. After Maud Allan we were offered a sketch called "Ma Gosse," which included a fairly sensational Apache dance; but which was

rounded off and rendered acceptable by means of a comic dénouement. Nobody but the very "unco guid" could find offence of a serious kind in "Ma Gosse." During the present week, however, Mr. Butt has been offering us in French a wild and whirling episode called "Le Visiteur." Here again we have an Apache dance, and we regret to say that in our view it is a dance of a most indelicate and disgusting character. We use these words advisedly, and we mean them. The episode of itself is none too inspiring, but it might pass as French episodes go if it were not for certain unnecessary movements and gestures which are introduced into the dance of which we complain. We are astonished that Mr. Butt should have permitted these movements and gestures to find their way on to his stage, and we think that he should have them excised at once. Their removal would not mean the slightest loss to the dramatic interest or general force of the sketch, and their presence simply means grave and gross offence to all rightminded people. In these matters it is customary to talk of art, and of the wicked mind of the beholder. We say that the art in "Le Visiteur"-and there is a great deal of it—is simply ruined by what takes place between Mile. Polaire and her male confrère in the middle of this Apache dance, and that the very simplest mind cannot fail to see the impropriety and the indelicacy of it. The dance could easily be cleansed of its most objectionable feature, and this without loss of tragic effect. Knowing what we do know of Mr. Butt and of the Palace Theatre, we hope that the grounds of our animadversion will be at once removed.

We believe that Mr. Butt and the directors of the Palace Theatre will agree with us when we say that the dance in question requires to be pushed only a very little further to place it indubitably and palpably in the category of the unpresentable and the illegal. Sailing near the wind is all very well in its way; but it is possible to sail too near the wind, with results which are not pleasant to the parties concerned. Unless the persons responsible for the reasonable purity of vaudeville in London take care to keep what is manifestly "near the knuckle" out of their performances, they are likely to find themselves in a most difficult position. As a rule, when public opinion is once thoroughly aroused against licence or the appearance of licence, that licence has not only to go by the board, but it is followed by undesirable and harassing restrictions of liberty. We should not like to think that the Palace Theatre management had been the means of bringing about these restrictions. On the other hand, we are not disposed to tolerate licence, even at the Palace Theatre, and we say what we have said because we believe that it is not in the public interest that the performance of Mlle. Polaire should be allowed to continue in its present form. We make no aspersions upon Mlle. Polaire, who is a singularly competent and sincere artist, nor do we wish to asperse the gentleman who so ably supports her; neither do we suggest that "Le Visiteur" is not in itself an entirely proper piece of tragedy, as such unedifying tragedies go. We have stated the nature of our complaint in plain terms, and we shall not rest satisfied until something is done in the matter-

We were present on Wednesday evening at the Philharmonic Society's concert at the Queen's Hall. The feature of the evening programme was Mr. Joseph Holbrooke's

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an the "Queen Mab" music, which we believe Mr. Holbrooke himself described as a "tone poem." Mr. Holbrooke conducted the performance in person, and we were glad to note that though he came late he was well received, and that the "Queen Mab" tone poem pleased his audience. It is an early work of Mr. Holbrooke's, and to our mind its defects, which may be summed up as amounting to a lack of roundness and amplitude, are sufficiently overweighted by its merits to justify one in describing it as a very notable and interesting piece of work. We think that the Philharmonic Society are to be congratulated on having included this work in their programme, and we shall hope to hear more of Mr. Holbrooke at this class of concert. There can be no doubt as to his genius and his ambition and his command over the resources of the modern orchestra. He is a young man, and, considering his years, he has achieved a great deal. Time will no doubt give him the ripeness and breadth which are essential to all great and lasting music.

At some little risk in these days of touchiness on the part of musicians, we venture to suggest to Mr. Holbrooke that he is too considerable a composer to permit himself some of the small luxuries of advertisement in which he would appear to indulge. An article respecting "Josef Holbrooke and His Work," which has recently been printed in a magazine called Euterpe, commences as follows:

When Holbrooke's "Queen Mab" was produced at the Leeds Festival of 1904 in the composer's 24th year a facetious critic writing for one of our big London Dailies wished to be brilliant, but in reality made himself ridiculous by questioning whether Holbrooke was an Englishman. A damning critique of the work followed, and I subsequently learnt on very good authority that this critic did not happen to be in the hall during the performance of this particular work.

We do not suppose for a moment that Mr. Holbrooke wrote or inspired this paragraph. But it is surely a foolish paragraph and calculated to irritate and disconcert lovers of music. Obviously, if Mr. Holbrooke and his friends persist in spelling the plain, honest, Biblical Joseph with an "f," the inference is that Mr. Holbrooke is either not an Englishman or wishes people to be a little dubious about his extraction. Holbrooke, of course, is a palpable English name. "Josef," on the other hand, is neither one thing nor another. If Mr. Holbrooke's parents christened him Joseph he should stick to the birth certificate spelling, and have nothing to do with masquerades in F minor. If, on the other hand, they christened him Josef, for heaven's sake let him drop the "ph." We are of opinion that the notion that a person connected with the musical arts must call himself Signor with Tutti Frutti or some such silliness after it is a foolish and ridiculous notion. The idea, too, that an English composer cannot be honoured in his own country is equally ridiculous. The British public would just as soon have Sir Hubert Parry and Mr. Joseph Holbrooke as Cavaliere Huberto Parrio and Signor Josef Hollbrooki provided always that the music is all right. Of course discussions of these small topics make advertisement and "get a man's name about." We think, however, that a good rule for all musicians who have pretensions to eminence is, "take care of the music and the advertisement will take care of itself." We mean these remarks in the kindest spirit, and we should not indulge in them if we considered Mr. Holbrooke a merely average or mediocre composer.

#### FROM THE PERSIAN

"Put a green cushion at my head,
An almond branch that is faint and green,
Hang me with emeralds, drop by drop,
Emerald silk for an emerald queen,
For the street is curtained with gray of dawn,
But the emerald sun steps in between.

Put a gold cushion at my head,
And golden shoes on my little feet,
Bind my hair with threads of gold,
Scent me with gold that is passing sweet
And paint my eyes with a brush of gold,
For the sun is gold in the golden street.

Put a rose cushion at my head

And a scarf of rose o'er my little breast,

A rose red rug by the fountain-side,

Dream me a rose for my sunset rest

And place a rose in my jewelled hand,

For the sun is rose in the rose-hued west.

Put a black cushion at my head,

And turn the lights in the harem dim,

Swing a black pearl o'er my weary eyes,

Cast ashes down by the fountain's rim,

For the street is black, and the sun has gone

Till dawn I must watch and wait for him."

#### HEREDITY AND THE KING

That very much overrated man, the Earl of Rosebery, has once again deserted his lonely furrow for the limelight of publicity. What Lord Rosebery has been doing all his life is, as a matter of fact, not ploughing lonely furrows, but sitting on public fences, which is quite another matter. Having heard all the foolish Radical talk about doing away with the House of Lords, and having heard all the equally foolish Unionist talk about reforming the House of Lords, Lord Rosebery has decided that by coming down on the reform side of the fence he may be able to accomplish something which will repair his somewhat damaged reputation and justify his claims to be the "brilliant" and wonderful portent that his admirers have claimed him to be; and it is only too much to be feared that the constitutional party is going to allow itself to be used as a stalking

horse for Lord Rosebery's vanity and ambitious opportunism. The House of Lords has just been put to a sharp test; confronted with a great constitutional issue it has had to decide whether it would follow the counsels of courage and honesty or those of cowardice and dishonesty so loudly advocated by Lord Rosebery. It declined to be guided by Lord Rosebery's advice; it declined to vote into law a Budget which it considered to be fraught with disaster and ruin to the nation, and the verdict of the country has been returned in its favour. What possible reason can there be for proceeding to the reform of an institution which has once again and for the hundredth time proved itself to be the one fine, incorruptible and disinterested institution which this country possesses? can be no possible reason for a sane man who is also a patriot. And it is not patriotism which animates Lord Rosebery and those misguided members of the Unionist party who are foolish enough to range themselves behind his banner. The whole strength of the House of Lords lies in the hereditary principle, and the principle of heredity in the House of Lords is precisely the same as the principle of heredity in the case of the Crown. Any attempt to abolish the hereditary principle of the House of Lords must inevitably, in the long run, lead to the abolition of the monarchy. Lord Rosebery is not such a fool as not to be perfectly well aware of this; but the ultimate catastrophe which would be brought about by the adoption of his "reform" proposals is, as he equally well knows, not likely to come to pass during his own lifetime. Consequently, Lord Rosebery does not care; and to achieve success and rehabilitate himself in the estimation of the mob he adopts the principle of après moi le déluge. We say most emphatically that, in view of the inevitable consequences, anyone who proposes to do away with the hereditary principle of the House of Lords is a traitor to the Constitution and a traitor to the King, and would, if he had his deserts, be tried for high treason. The dull people and the dull newspapers who employ the current dull cant about the illogicality of the principle of hereditary legislators wilfully, or perhaps out of mere stupidity, ignore the fact that in every country and among every class of persons the hereditary principle exists, and can neither be ignored nor discredited. We do not, of course, pretend that a peer is essentially any different from any other man. There are good peers and bad peers and indifferent peers, just as there are good costermongers, bad costermongers, and indifferent costermongers. The private character of a peer is of no more importance to his function as a peer than is the private character of a priest in his function as a priest. Would any man in his senses contend that a marriage solemnised by a clergyman of disreputable private character was any less sacred and valid than a marriage solemnised by a clergyman or priest of saintly character? The idea is, of course, preposterous. The sanctity of the priest and the respect due to a peer by every man who is not an atheist or a Socialist is inherent not in the man himself but in his office. The principle of heredity is not of course the only one which guides the constitution of the House of Lords. Constitutionally speaking, the

peers do not derive their legislative powers from their ancestors but from the Sovereign. That is the reason why it is right and proper that new peers should be made from time to time; and it is also the reason why the ultimate power of creating new peers rests entirely with the Sovereign. Mr. Asquith might go on advising the King to make Mr. Keir Hardie a peer until he was blue in the face, and we have no doubt that for a consideration Mr. Asquith would be delighted to do it. But no power on earth could compel his Majesty to yield to Mr. Asquith's advice. It follows, therefore, necessarily that any attack on the House of Lords is an attack on the King. The King himself is precisely in the same position with regard to his constitutional rights and his claim to the loyalty of his subjects as are the peers with regard to their legislative functions. These rights and this claim depend not a whit on the personality of any particular monarch who happens to be reigning at any particular time. They have nothing whatever to do with his private character or the views held by various individuals as to his fitness or otherwise for the position which he occupies. The Sovereign for the time being is The King or The Queen, and in that capacity has the same claim to respect and loyalty as the peer has in his capacity. To attack one is to attack the other; and to propose to introduce into the constitution of the House of Lords anything in the nature of elective qualifications is to lay the axe to the root of the monarchy. The fact is that the cry to reform the House of Lords started by Lord Rosebery, and echoed with enthusiasm in the brainless Unionist press, is neither more nor less than a party manœuvre. Lord Rosebery, who, for the time being at any rate, is just as much a member of the Opposition to the present Government as Lord Lansdowne himself, hopes that the idea of taking the wind out of the sails of the Liberal party, which is the whole raison d'être of his proposal, will appeal to the party spirit of Mr. Balfour, Lord Lansdowne, and the rest of the Unionist party. We hope and trust that Mr. Balfour and Lord Lansdowne will have nothing to do with proposals emanating from such a very suspicious source. There is no more sense in reforming the House of Lords than there would be in "reforming" Westminster Abbey or "reforming" Salisbury Cathedral. The worst that can be said against any of these three is that they have lasted a very long time and have their roots in a bygone day, when everyone in this country believed in God, in the sacredness of honour and the reality of chivalry. There are, unfortunately, at the present moment a large number of people in these islands who, if they got the chance, would be delighted to pull down Westminster Abbey and Salisbury Cathedral and erect in their places buildings of the type frequented by the enlightened members of the Free Churches-buildings, that is to say, which at first sight give the impression of being crosses between racquet courts and public lavatories. It is people with the same sort of minds who want to reform the House of Lords. They must be restrained, and they will be restrained if Mr. Balfour and Lord Lansdowne are anything like the men we take them to be.

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#### THE ISLES OF GREECE

"Behold, your land is left unto you desolate," is the latest, most suitable legend for the escutcheon of these Isles. Eyewitnesses have been attesting and diplomats protesting, but the exodus from the Turkish vijou proceeds merrily. Egypt, that shooting-ground of rubbish, North and even South America are preferable to the performers of this exode.

Purity (comparative and problematical) is more desirable in administration than unclean hands (similarly qualified) wielding the government of a country. Mohammad V. accisis pennis "rules higher" just now than Abdul Hamid II., interned for the present and absolute monarch in the past. But the late Sultan had, at least, an immense Empire for maladministration; the present constitutional regulus will soon have none in which to show off his justice and moderation . . . and inability to do harm. And one cannot even be a saint without the Aristotelian pabulum for keeping the saint's body and soul together. At the rate at which his guardians are going, Mohammad V. will, early in his reign, lack subjects to whom that reign can be a boon and a blessing. Yemen is to be made over to its rebellious Arabs, as an asset too troublesome, as a damnosa hareditas of "the wicked old times." Egypt is, of course, to be volubly consecrated to us; whereas the old "Damned One" only tacitly acknowledged us as men in possession. And so on through the gamut. "Constitution" to the Young Turks (who are neither young nor Turks, so much as Armenians and Jews and old foxes of that ilk) spells "Scuttle." Had Crete been strong enough, she had been quit long ago of the last poor rag of Constitutional Turkey's waning half-moon stuck on a pole, watched by us. And now, like Prospero's rats, Rhodians, Zemnians, Imbrians, and the sea-girt generally are instinctively leaving the ship of state. Ostensibly, compulsory military service for Christians as well as for Moslems is the cause of this Hejira. Really, the evil is deeper-seated. And it is not merely conscription of Jew and Gentile that causes defection from the standard of Mohammad, whether the Prophet or the modern Khalifa. Why? Nothing could suit Greeks better than to be harnessed and carrying bows, so as to turn aside in the day of battle, and to rend their "Enslavers." To-day's Children of Ephraim, also, would not, peradventure, be absolutely disinclined to the lootno more, it may be, than were we Europeans who boxed the "Boxers," or the half-million and odd who last engaged the Boers, that feeble folk now independent and "enslaving." (Will Mr. Herbert Gladstone contrive to estop them?) While the Greeks are leaving their own isles, the Albanians are fighting both Turks and obscurantism at one time. These Arnaouts are playing the Scots to Abdul Hamid's Prince Charlie rôle. Your Arnaout is bellicose to a fault, and he is not afraid of conscription, if he can wear his own trews and arm himself in his peculiar mountaineer fashion. Now he is believed, pace the Censor, to have inflicted big losses on the Osmanli. "Abdul Hamid was faithful and just to him, and he will not serve a less good man (in leading-strings) without a struggle." So the Albanian, in good Skip parlance. Armenians, who filled the Foreign Office in Stamboul in his Imperial day, are less devoted to Abdul Hamid, of course; but his "successor" (with a difference) must make it worth their while ere they love even him to distraction. The warlike virtues of a Mithridates or of a Tigranes have

left no local reflex unto this day! The Haik cannot away with conscription. Your Ermeni, like Macaulav's University of Oxford, is ever prone to find himself rather with the baggage than with the van of an army on the march. Finding himself there, he reaps a double advantage: he is further from the foe and nearer the food. Since Mr. Gladstone's death, the Armenian has been better known for what he is, a blend of Marlowe's Jew of Malta and Shylock.

And it was not fear of Turkish reprisals, in case of Greece being forced into a disastrous war by the oligarchy now trading at Dolma Bâghtche as Mohammad V. and Co., that caused and is causing the depletion of Byron's Greek Islands "enslaved." Intestine trouble is usually bloodlet by war abroad. Such phlebotomy would have suited the Committee of "Union and Progress." Had war broken out, closing in the defeat of Hellas, would that discomfiture have made the Hellenes better Ottoman soldiers, fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Paynim against non-Moslems? I trow not. That is not the lesson we have learned from the slow welding of North and South after the Civil War; and Northerns and Confederates were both Christians, not disparate religionists, chameleon-hued.

But the Committee would have recked little of that: its (immediate) face would have been saved from darkness; its puny bickerings would have been lost to the public ear in the clash of armaments; it would itself still hold the field (in more senses than one). Peace is death to it And a coup d'état caused by a military uprising is proverbially shortlived; in most recorded cases, by a military counter-coup, as the Gospel threatens, its euthanasia is assured, whatever the angle at which Janus' temple-portal may be. But let us leave arid politics, and come to genial philosophy for a little space. The emigration from the Greek Isles in such a mass will affect our knowledge of old Greek. Luckily, that dead tongue is becoming more and more useless and less and less learned. And those, if such there still be, who feel any interest in it, had better at once take their phonographs to the islands now being widowed of their inhabitants, and get the remainder to speak into these instruments the good old words of Ancient Hellenic, preserved in the islander communities alone. For the words of Homer are still there, in part, and there only. Cyprus, for instance, though this is not an island affected, has some remarkably interesting words still in current use to-day. Such meritorious, if supererogatory, societies as still publish Old Greek magazines, reviews, or other publications; such British newspapers (are there two?) as give prizes for Old Hellenic; such amateurs or dilettanti as have time and money to do so, cannot be too soon in catching these words, these expressions, these tones. They are flying to the New World, to the land of everyday English, or of very un-Castilian Spanish; many have flown already. Breton is dying hard (with the hardness of a Breton's head), and philologists are saving up local expressions, dialectical peculiarities, striking archaisms, what not. So shall even death be robbed by science—the death of the spoken voice henceforth embalmed for ever. And the same is true to-day of Provençal, Catalonian, Gascon-to quote the case of but France alone. Ab uno disce omnes. And shall the language of Homer and of the Homeridæ, that of burning Sappho and of Alcaus-Islanders representative and reputable, to put things mildly-die to-day, for political or quasi-political reasons? Is not the survival of the digamma of more durable interest than the seizure of

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Salamis by an unknown leader of a handful of men? Can the miserable question of being or not being a soldier by force in the Moslem ranks weigh in the balance against keeping alive, somewhere and somehow, a spark Promethean of genuine, pure Hellenic? Is the Island of Anthony Hope Hawkins' "Phroso" to be robbed of its folk with long names tapering off in -poulos, whose tongue fashions to frame aright intonations or cadences elsewhere unknown to-day? Are sounds or vocal nuances racy of " Phroso's " soil, and of none other, to be swallowed up by an outlandish people? Is what is still best, because sea-girt and yet suffering no sea-change, in the speech of the Greek Islander, to become as Cornish? That Islander, and only he, has escaped the scath even of Teuton iconoclasts. Even Germany has not denied to the less abordable Sporades a remnant of the true Hellenic blood, while it dooms the rest of Greece-practically all the continent, and many islands -to reckon as Barbarians unnaturally surviving. Islander, then, alone conserves the type of Odysseus, who incarnated the wiles of the isles! And this is he who is now for sooth to fuse his noble blood with Theoritus' "evil playthings," the Egyptians-with the scum of that America, which is, or is not, the Atlantis of Plato! The very thought is horror and desecration.

True, in historic times Greeks of the Isles, as well as Continental Greeks, have had colonies at great distances from the μητρόπολις. True, again, is it that the cause has, occasionally, been internal strife of parties. But it is a long cry from such a swarm's leaving the hive to the present proposed self-suffocation. For wholesale depletion of islands by those who have there dwelt for centuries may almost be called self-suffocation. The wrench will be deadly. As Pericles' policy was herein evil in that it brought within the pale of Athens the country-folk surprised by the Peloponnesian War, so this flight of the Greek insulars will cost both fugitives and poor Greece passing dear. And surely that tortured land is just now in throes of sufficient trial. "Enslaved," she was little, if at all, worse off. After emancipation, Otho; after Otho, George, whose forty-six years of government avail him nothing, who was forced to look on at outrage upon outrage on his bourgeois Kingship, on his wife, on his sons, on his successive, unsuccessful ministers.

Kings, I know, are cheap, and an Islander may be bought for a pair of old shoes—the average monarch and the Islander of daily dealings. But quality is fast of its colour. And the sovereign (even petty) or the poor insular who can rough it in one spot, for half a century and for untold centuries, respectively, is not met with to-day with banal facility.

H. H. J.

#### THE NEW ELECTRA

NIGHT of curious sensations, when the mænadic Electra of Hofmannsthal and Richard Strauss first supplants in one's imagination the heroine of the serene Sophocles. From the Germanic world, with its pride and lust for power and its seemingly decadent core, comes, of course, this perverse effort of a modern poet to realise uncompromisingly the horror of a forgotten passion of the antique world—the duty of revenge, the wiping out of murder by fresh blood.

Such a theme in a modern setting cries for music. As with "Salome," Strauss did at once the obvious and an

inspired thing in choosing the "Electra" of Hofmannsthal for the exercise of his art. Opera was, before Wagner—and for the most part has, for that matter, been since—a sort of novelette garnished with arias and choruses. Richard Strauss's first virtue in his work for the theatre is Wagner's—the choice of the larger outline, the intenser passion. But the gulf! In two generations we have travelled far from the primeval spring of the loves of Siegmund, Brynnhilde, Tristan, to the fever of Salome and Electra's frenzied thirst for blood.

The motive of the Electra of Sophocles is as alien to our minds to-day as we are remote from piety before the image of a god of Cnossos. Already in "Hamlet" the revised attitude of a man in the situation of Orestes is recorded. And perhaps we to-day have drifted from "Hamlet's" position, tending, as we are, to suppress violence of the body from our lives. In the hands, then, of the modern poet, Electra's passion for revenge, her lust for her mother's blood, come to be pathological matters; something intensely curious and terrible and remote, and barely explicable. And since in later ages ideals of forgiveness and mercy have entered into the fabric of man's mind, Electra has to be rendered comprehensible to us by being turned brutish; Hofmannsthal has it that she is fed with "offal" in a "kennel"; she digs in the earth for Agamemnon's axe, with her hands, "silently, like an

This presentation for modern minds of the ancient tale is inexpressibly curious; but it is probable that to see it played with the words nakedly spoken would be hardly bearable. But the words have been clothed, and the passions made immeasurably more articulate by music of extraordinary splendour and marvellousness. The beginning chords, with their unique colouring, seize one, and the music enthrals one persistently by its vigour and vividness, its varied hues, its melodic line broken and jagged, or meltingly sweet-its strange harmonic texture, its unearthly atmosphere, its weird suggestions of obscure passions. Our Beckmessers have been saying that if one pulls the fabric to pieces, such-and-such a theme is tawdry, another banal or borrowed. Well, if they glow and pulsate in their places as does each theme and melody in "Electra," that is their justification. Beckmesser, too, is aghast at the superimposition of one tonality on another (a path, by the way, along which Strauss appears definitely to have set out; it is one of the most characteristic features of the score of "Electra"). One can only sigh that there should still be people who judge by the "look" a progression may have on paper, or-worse!-by its result on the piano. Strauss, of course, could orchestrate an earsplitting mass of notes so that the effect would be, at most, piquant. The fact is that this score, though on the one hand bound by innumerable links to the art of Wagner, opens up by its concision and its intensity, its mobility of expression and the novelty of its emotional suggestion, an entirely new vista of the possibilities of music-drama.

One should add some tribute to the singular splendour of the performances of "Electra" at Covent Garden of late. If the first of them was incomparable for its fine frenzy and the suffusion of a peculiar domain spirit, that of a week later had greater coherency and more continued beauty.

### REVIEWS

#### THOMAS HARDY'S NEW POEMS

Time's Laughing-stocks. By Thomas Hardy. (Macmillan. 4s. 6d.)

"TIME'S Laughing-stocks" is a fitting title for Mr. Hardy's poems, just as "Life's Little Ironies" would be a suitable substitute for the titles of the majority of his novels. His attitude is well known from his earlier work, and the new poems do not modify that attitude. Underlying it is the sense that "the world is a welter of futile doing":-

> "Crass casualty obstructs the suns and rain, And dicing time for gladness casts a moan."

As Walter Pater wrote of another and very different désillusionné, almost everywhere he can detect the "hollow ring of fundamental nothingness under the apparent surface of things. Irony, habitual irony, must be the proper complement thereto, on his part." Mr. Hardy's poems are sung by the Spirit Ironic, and are filled with the sense of the vastness of time, the littleness of human suffering and endeavour, and the pity of it. In these new poems there is hardly even that note of doubtful hope contained in the chorus of the Pities, at the close of his tremendous drama. But apart from his attitude towards life, there is some discordant quality in many of these poems which prevents the greatest of living writers from being the greatest of living poets: his great light seems to struggle through a dark lantern.

Yet what more do we want, when we get in these poems, at their best, a noble and unaffected plainness, an intellectual depth of motive, a "hard acorn of thought," even in less favoured moments; a style simple, direct, and above all truthful and unconcerned; a style singularly individual?

> "All one, ever the same, Putting invention in a noted weed, That every word doth almost tell his name"?

There is no forced note. Mr. Hardy has evidently written his poems to please himself-the best of all reasons for writing-and it is impossible, after reading them, to read with pleasure the work of younger men whose admirable and ornamental verse has every quality of dexterity that his lacks, and none of that indefinable greatness that he undoubtedly possesses. He has knowledge of "those sequestered spots outside the gates of the world": he has the knowledge with which he credits Angel Clare, of "the seasons in their moods, morning and evening, night and noon, in their temperaments, winds in their several dispositions, trees, waters, and clouds, shades and silence, ignes fatui, constellations, and the voices of inanimate things." To him, as to Wordsworth, nature becomes, as seen by man's intellect, "an ebbing and a flowing mind." He is in touch with the past, as with the present, and is familiar with forgotten years and the wealth of vanishing tradition.

Yet something is certainly missing. In many cases he has not sublimated his material into a single shapely whole; and, while his prose has innumerable passages out of which poetry is made, his verse sometimes deviates into prose. The poems are unequal. There is much delicate beauty in "The Dead Quire," and a homely charm in the country songs. The largeness of the evening earth upon

the downland is drawn with exquisite propriety of phrase in the "Revisitation," where one of Time's laughing-stocks climbs alone at night, "with thoughts half-uttered,"

"Up the lane I knew so well, the grey gaunt lane of Slyre, And at whiles behind me, far at sea, a sullen thunder muttered

As I mounted high and higher.

Round about me bulged the barrows

As before, in antique silence—immemorial funeral piles— Where the sleek herds trampled daily the remains of flinttipped arrows

'Mid the thyme and camomiles.

Maybe, flustered by my presence
Rose the peewits, just as all those years back, wailing soft and loud.

And revealing their pale pinions like a fitful phosphorescence Up against the cope of cloud."

Very beautiful, too, is the clear outline of the summer night as it draws toward dawn, and

"A red upedging sun, of glory chambered mortals view not,

Was blazing on my eyes, From the Milton Woods to Dole-Hill,

All the spacious landscape lighting, and around about my feet Flinging tall, thin tapering shadows from the meanest mound and molehill.

And on trails the ewes had beat."

There are fine things in "She Hears the Storm," and its pendant, the "Farm-woman's Winter." But the inequality of the poems gives a certain impression of amateurishnessthe amateurishness, of course, of an amateur of genius. It is not a question of makeshift work or careless technique, nor the avoidance of technical difficulties. In the Wessex Poems, in "My Cicely," the last line of twenty-nine verses rhymes with the word "me"; and in the "Sunday Morning Tragedy" in these new poems, the second and fourth lines of all the thirty-four verses are rhymed to the same rhyme sound-no mean feat; in both cases the use of this dominant sound has some of the haunting charm and none of the disadvantages of the refrain. It lies rather in the occasional gaucheries of his narrative poems, and in the inclusion among his nobler poems of such pieces as the meaningless "To a Rejected Member's Wife"; "1967" (with its aspiration toward the coming century:

> "I would only ask thereof That thy worm should be my worm, love ")

And the young man's epigram upon life, where the thought has taken shape in doggerel :-

> "A senseless school where we must give Our lives, that we may learn to live! A dolt is he who memorizes Lessons that leave no room for prizes.

The short preface to the poems is interesting. Mr. Hardy repeats there his warning that the lyrics penned in the first person are to be regarded in the main as dramatic monologues; just as in the preface to the Poems of the Past and the Present he claims that "much is dramatic or impersonative, even where not explicitly so," and in that to the Wessex Poems, that his works are "always in a large degree dramatic or impersonative in conception, and this even where they are not obviously so." It seems to us to matter very little whether the poems represent imaginative or actual experience, so long as the writer has the power of looking at the world, or himself, through the

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atmosphere of the poetic imagination. He also makes an apology for "some lack of concord in pieces written at widely severed dates, and in contrasting moods and circumstances"; but there is little need of the plea, as the book has an essential coherence as the expression of a powerful nature, of a mind so original that it is difficult to trace the influence of any other man's methods or thoughts upon him in poems which range in date between 1865 and 1909. There is, indeed, a resemblance between his narrative work and our ancient ballads; he has some of the directness and simplicity of the old writers, and has shown the genius and strength to grasp and exhibit the tragic passions in a way to challenge comparison with them. The clear and unembarrassed pathos of "The Sunday Morning Tragedy," the moving power of the Tramp-woman's story, can only be paralleled by that literature. He has, too, their felicity in dealing with the supernatural, their tendency to treat of those passions, crimes, and mistakes that have a kind of fatality in them.

We might have suspected that as some of these poems were written forty years ago, and have not been included in the Wessex Poems or the Poems of the Past and the Present, we have before us what tradesmen call a "second choice." But with the exception of the poems we have mentioned as not worthy of Mr. Hardy's genius, the book, as he very modestly claims, will take the reader forward rather than backward; and the later poems show a notable increase of power. The book is worth possessing, if only because it contains the moving music of that poem (in a minor key), which is an introduction to his country songs. (It would be difficult to find poems in anything but a minor key in Mr. Hardy's works).

Let me enjoy the earth no less Beause the all-enacting Might That fashioned forth its loveliness Had other aims than my delight.

About my path there flits a Fair,
Who throws me not a word or sign;
I will find charm in her uncare,
And laud those lips not meant for mine.

From manuscripts of wooing song,
Inspired by scenes and souls unknown,
I'll pour out raptures that belong
To others, as they were my own.

Perhaps some day, toward Paradise
And all its blest—if such should be—
I shall lift glad, afar-off eyes,
Though it contain no place for me.

### SOLDIERS OF MISFORTUNE.

In the Foreign Legion. By ERWIN ROSEN. (Messrs. Duckworth and Co. 7s. 6d. net.)

"Soldiers of Misfortune"—for thus are rightly named the men of the Foreign Legion—mercenaries without money, "mixed pickles"—alas! that such a record can be written of two strong regiments of brave men in the twentieth century. But it has been written, and it is our task to review it. It was on October 5, 1905, that Erwin Rosen signed the contract to serve the Republic of France in her Foreign Legion. "It is not necessary to write the date," said the officer who witnessed the attestation. Mr. Rosen had written it unwittingly, but he remarked, "It's an important date for me," and he little knew the full truth of his words. They were a typical trio who were

roped in that October morning at Belfort-a gentleman, a juggler, and a country lad who had fled from his German regiment to avoid the penalty for absence without leave and "beating the watch." For him, poor boy, it was out of the frying-pan into the furnace. A soldier can follow Mr. Rosen step by step to his doom from the moment his mind was made up to become a Légionnaire, through the antecedents of his signature of that fatal attestation on October 5, till his arrival with other bleus (recruits) at Marseilles. He had served before. He had been a free soldier of the United States in Cuba, so the attitude of French officers towards his venture must have been a revelation (though, perhaps, not a full one) of the gravity of the step he was taking. He signed on all the same, and went with a convoy of bleus to Marseilles. Mr. Rosen recalls very vividly the babel of the Marseilles quays, a motley of colour, of clothing and caste, though he didn't tarry long there on his way to Fort St. Jean, "France's gate for her colonial soldiers." Then to Oran and Sidibel-Abbès, in the Sud-Oranais, the recruiting depot of the Foreign Legion, the headquarters of the First Regimentthe "Premier Etranger." What memories does that name bring back (to the reviewer)! A ridge in a rolling plain outside Casablanca. Le Premier du Premier (1st Battalion, 1st Regiment of the Legion) was the backbone of the force, which included Chasseurs d'Afrique, the newly enrolled Goumiers (Algerian irregulars), and a battery of quick-firing field guns. In command was Major Provost, a genial, mellow old soldier of fortune, conducting his reconnaissance with skill, calmness, and humour-a twinkle in his keen eye, a joke all ready on his firm lip. And then three days later a long morning under fire. A fatal bullet and Provost fell dead. There was no ambulance near, and the gallant, old, grey head bumping on the back of a mule back to the camp he commanded is a horrid memory. The next day the cemetery. But this is a digression—the reviewer asks your pardon; but it is also a revelation of the ruthlessness of the Legion. On the voyage to Oran a tradition of the Legion was imparted by the sergeant in charge of the recruits. It was a tale of how the cross of the Legion of Honour was won by a young German Légionnaire, dying while he won it. He was a royal Prince of Prussia. It is an article of faith in the Legion, this Prince of Prussia, which numbers in its ranks every creed and craft; and so the orderly-room clerk receives wonderful confessions of individuality without a smile. Who Mr. Rosen is we do not know. He figured in the books of the Legion as a journalist. fellow-bleu thus had himself inscribed: "Herr von Rader; father, a Chancellor of the German Supreme Court; he himself by profession a juggler and a lance-corporal of marine reserves." The very first act of camaraderie which the author committed was a step to rid himself of a comrade. An older soldier of the Legion, with craving eyes that commanded compliance, begged of him his plain clothes ere he donned uniform. He gave them to him, and so he began his life in the Legion by helping to what is the main object of most Légionnaires' lives-desertion. However, the life for a time seems to be endurable, but only for a time. Rosen, most happily, was posted to the eleventh company, which numbered in its ranks Bugler Smith, once of the United States Armysoldier, philosopher, and humorist. He is the only devoted Légionnaire to whom we are introducd. early days in this corps would appear to be a series of upsettings of every rule of life, and each upset is thus explained: "C'est la Légion!" It is an education in the

details of a soldier's life to read Mr. Rosen's narrative, for soldiering is universal. A little more so, a little less, and the pattern holds good. The paquetage (the disposal of the Légionnaire's clothes and equipment), reveille-Le-e-vez-vous !- and all the habits of barrack-room life do not vary much. But the French early morning coffee -announced in the two words au jus-is a grateful and comforting awakener which few other armies have. No one beginning this book would dream of the end. It is true that there was omen in the attitude of the Belfort officers towards the avowed intention of this well-dressed Anglo-German, but the earlier pages are full of humour, and they prompt to laughter rather than tears. But the iron enters into his soul as Mr. Rosen writes, and enters into the soul of the reader. The military training is an admirable one. Its object is to make the Légionnaire an independent soldier, an individual fighting man-and very well does it succeed. But, above all, he is taught to cover ground. The 2,000 yards double of the British Army is developed into half an hour of a long loping trot, with a race at the end-and that every morning almost. are told, too, that the Legion can shoot. Individual soldiers who can march and shoot! What more would a Moltke want? But standards vary; all is relative. We didn't know what shooting meant till we fought brother Boer-and the Legion can miss very freely at short ranges and hit very seldom at long. Now mark this. All the training in the Foreign Legion is done by non-commissioned officers-mostly by corporals. Corporal and camaraderie and no cursing, that is the instinct of their military education, and it produces brilliant, independent soldiers who can march forty kilometres a day, till they die fighting at the end of any number of such days' marches, shooting fairly well-cheap, splendidly trained mercenaries! Cheap! That is where it comes in-a halfpenny a day to spend. It is all spent, of course, at the canteen. Two Légionnaires can go together to the canteen on the regimental holiday (pay day once in five days), and drink five bottles of wine between them. The economist has one bottle of wine and 11d. worth of the tobacco of the Legion to roll into cigarettes. It seems to us incredible that such material can be bought so cheap. Perhaps its low price excuses its scandalously cruel application. Pages 98 and 99 give the Legion's weekly routine. The training causes no complaint. But the corvée (fatigue work)! It is hated in every army except the Egyptian, and at a halfpenny a day among individual soldiers who have a great average of intellect between them it is resented beyond words. And such fatigues! Cleaning out the lavatories of native Arab prisons. That is about a record of debasing white men's labour. Stacking the forage for the Spahis, the Arab cavalry (cavalry always do their own work, though nobody else's). "The Legion works, but it gets no pay." Such are the scathing words of contempt of a Spahi. "Inseparable from the Legion's military value is the Legion's work "-and so, marching ever on and carrying a hundred pounds on his person (nearly 50 kilogrammes), the Légionnaire (mostly a foreigner) has carried the flag of France far into the heart of Africa, Madagascar, and Tonquin, winning the head of the pass, making the road to it, holding the road, building the town, maintaining the system of French civilisation (quite different to all others) against all comers. What wonder that men of the Legion have "cafard" ? "Cafard" represents a form of madness, and varies like other forms. It varies from a day's impossibility to the direst forms of homicidal mania. C'est la Légion! All is different in these two wonderful regiments. They learn French in the barrack square, and have a French of their own, of course. As the British Tommie has his universal adjective, so has the Legion its invective substantive. When the general of Napoleon's Old Guard was summoned to surrender, convention has it that he answered: "The Old Guard dies, but never surrenders." The Legion swear that he replied in one word "--!" (their own invective). On page 146 we find an analysis of the nationality of a company of the Legion. Only 5 per cent. were French; but 45 per cent. were Alsatians. English and Americans are not named-they come under the heading, "From Various Countries"-and we are thankful to know that there are but few of them. Thank heaven our Empire finds fields for our own rolling stones-fields on which they are free Englishmen. The Légionnaire is a helot. The Legion marches on or dies! And thus we see our contention upheld. It was a march with six hours' manœuvres as objective-300 kilometres out and 300 back. Six hundred kilometres in sixteen days for six hours' sham fighting. Gripped by awful pains, the author reported sick, but only so far as to beg an opiate-some alleviation of his suffering. The médecin-major returned him "pas malade," a malingerer. He went "cafard," appealed to his captain and spoke impossible things. His captain righted his wrongs, and first spoke kindly; but thus did he put him in his helot's place:

"What do you really expect? What do you want? We are in the Legion. You are a Légionnaire. Don't forget

that again, Légionnaire!"

Is this most enchanting story of soldier's life true? It bears on itself the impress of truth, in spite of certain minor inaccuracies. And who is Mr. Erwin Rosen? Is he a German? We can hardly credit it. For he writes with a purity of English which is very hard to learn, and with an entrain which it would be impossible for a translator to convey; and yet the Legion (on active service, at any rate) does not give the impression of a condition of ruthless callous cruelty which these pages reveal. The sordid commercial transaction which enrols labour at a money payment of 5 centimes a day (labour much of which is highly skilled) is not in consonance with the instincts of a chivalrous nation and a nation of democrats. But the French are not as free as we are, in spite of their democratic form of government. As regards the "sordid commercial transaction," it is quite obvious that if France paid the Legion, the Legion would not exist. It would desert to a man. It is only want of money which keeps men there. To serve for a pension? It takes fifteen years to earn a pension of 500 francs a year. Few men survive. We don't think that this chapter of the French military Budget cost France much. We have recorded how the training and life of the Legion rests in the hands of men without commissions. If this tale is true, it is quite comprehensible why officers refuse to come too near to their Légionnaires' life. No decent-minded gentleman could suffer it. If it is true? If it is, it is such a revelation that the minds of humanitarians, of the friends of suffering men, should be turned from the Congo Free State to the Foreign Legion of

#### FICTION

The Magada. By W. M. Ardach. (John Lane. 6s.)
"The Magada" is a very freshly written and animated novel of adventure, with a highly original setting—the Fortunate Islands in 1483. Both country and century are

remote from the favourite haunts of the historical novelist, but the result has entirely justified Mr. Ardagh in breaking fresh ground and giving us a dignified picture of the Canarios, who so long ago lost their hold on life and slipped away into the dark, leaving behind them a memory only, but that memory is a memory of brave deeds and upright dealing. Late in the year 1482, when the book opens, a handful of islanders in Gran Canaria are still holding out, as they have held out for nearly eighty years, against the enemy. The Holy Brotherhood of Andalusia has provided a small fleet to conquer them, and with the fleet goes the captive king of the island, who, after his miraculous conversion in Spain, determines to devote his life to subduing his countrymen, if not to the Spaniard, to the Spaniards' God. With the fleet goes also the hero, Juan de Betancour, a descendant of that wise old Norman adventurer, Jean de Betancour, who had sailed from his country in 1400 and won, without bloodshed, four of the Fortunate Islands. Juan is a charming person, with an immense natural cheerfulness-a hero of the race of Quentin Durward, brave, resourceful, and a braggart, whose life, we feel from the first, will never be sacrificed in any of his hairbreadth 'scapes. This very self-confident young man, who is "nearly seventeen, but feels much older," deserts from camp, and goes on a moonlight raid, where he is taken prisoner by the Canarios; he falls down a precipice, but escapes unhurt, by a miracle; he is saved from the fury of the incensed Canarios by the interposition of their Magada, or sacred woman, and the law is that if a criminal appeals to the Magada, and receives a word of greeting, he is freed from death; even when his head is laid on the stone of execution the blow never falls. When he is brought back to Las Palmas, he escapes being shot for desertion; he does not fall in the nine years' war in Granada-altogether he has the hero's charmed life, as is proper. Perhaps he went with Columbus in 1492 to find out what lay beyond the Western Ocean, but the story leaves this vague; if he did so, he came back next year, and the record of his marriage was to be seen in the register of the Cathedral of Santa Aña till the old church was destroyed by fire. The whole story has the true romantic spirit, and is written in a clear, original, and attractive style.

Papuan Fairy Tales. By Annie Ker. (Macmillan. 5s.) These folk tales were collected from the natives of a small village on the north-east coast of Papua. As no written record exists, it was thought well to preserve some at least of the vanishing wealth of tradition, "for the older generation is fast dying out, and the young folk now in touch with the white man cannot be expected to treasure the old lore as did their fathers." These tales told to the white woman in exchange for tobacco are very interesting and characteristic of the Papuan mind. The sharp line which we draw between mankind and the lower animals does not exist for the savage; to him many of the animals appear as his equals, or more than his equals in intelligence and strength; and most of the stories are of the days when "the animals were all bariawa, and spoke and acted even as men do." Some of the Papuans believe in transmigration into animals, and hold that at death their souls pass into animals, such as cassowaries, fish, or pigs; or into vegetables, and they refuse to eat the animals of the sort in which the soul of the dead has taken up his residence. During life, too, the soul has strange vicissitudes. In the "Jungle Boy," Garawada is firmly fixed in a fig-tree by her mother-in-law (who is a witch), and when the men cut down the tree Garawada slips from under the leaves, to the beach, and there is turned into a crab which lives in a hole in the sand. Sorcery and witchcraft play a prominent part in all these folk-tales, and are still a real feature in Papuan life. "All deaths, save those due to accident, are laid to her (the witch's) charge," and quite an ordinary remark on hearing of a death is: "Who killed him?" meaning which witch. Cannibalism, too, is of frequent occurrence in these tales; and many of the tribes who have had to relinquish the habit still regret the golden age when, like "Dakodako, the man-eater," they could "eat flesh meat which satisfieth."

Quaker Robins. By WILFRID L. RANDELL. (Stanley Paul and Co. 6s. net.)

Passengers by the North Mail, more familiarly known as the Levant Limited Express, might well be excused for describing Merivale and its surroundings as dull and uninteresting. The smoke-begrimed atmosphere of a railway quarter would, in their eyes, be the very last place in which to discover material for romance. Yet Mr. Randell discovers such material, and works it with such characteristic effect that the commonplace becomes at once imbued with special interest and charm. Quaker Robins, who is the humble hero of this intensely human story, is the driver of a small dock-engine, known locally as "The Kettle." The name originated through the irreverence of an express driver, who happened one day to banter Quaker upon the defects of his mechanical charge, which, unfortunately for the peace and comfort of the working community, possessed a leaky whistle-joint, hissing cylindercovers, and squirting gauge-cocks.

"Don't slop about so much, Quaker," cried the driver of the aristocratic-looking Guinevere. "You ain't really an engine, you know—only a kettle on wheels. One of these fine days you'll bust."

Whatever her faults, the Kettle proves a gallant little piece of goods under the experienced handling of Quaker, whose career, bound up as it is with the lives of other interesting characters employed on the railway, is well worth following even though it ends with disaster.

Among the many stirring incidents in the book, the one in which No. 520 makes a name for herself is perhaps the most exciting. The author is graphic in his description of it. No. 520 is a fast perishable freight train which runs every evening from Merivale to Warleigh. On this particular occasion she is carrying, as an extra and special consignment, two trucks of dynamite for the Slapton mines. From some fault these trucks get loose and become runaways on the main line. To complicate and make matters more alarming, the North Mail has broken down in Warleigh tunnel, towards which the runaways are speeding. It would hardly be fair for us to disclose how Trewithen, the young driver of the freight train, goes in pursuit and ultimately recaptures the trucks before a second and more fearful disaster overtakes the wrecked mail. The book is full of original studies of railway life, amusing, pathetic, and dramatic in form.

Foes of Justice. By Headon Hill. (Ward, Lock, and Co. 6s.)

Mr. Headon Hill is well known as a writer who appeals to lovers of sensational fiction. His style of writing, apart from the aptitude for invention, calls for no greater qualifications than a certain power for sustaining mystery. Unfortunately, this power is wholly missing in this work, because the surprises at which the author aims are too palpably and prematurely discovered by the characters themselves. The ability to inflict surprises on his readers evidently exists, but the results of execution, in this instance, make for complete failure. This may possibly be the fault of our iniquitous system of criticism, which, from a pandering incompetence or gross carelessness,

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spoils any really promising efforts by its indiscriminate methods of approval, or rather puff. There are hundreds of scribblers (they have no right to be termed authors) whose inane vanities are cultivated by a senseless Press, who ought to be utilising their energies in some more honest way. On the other hand, there are authors who could reach a certain height of legitimate distinction, but who are debarred from reaching that height through want of a strong correction. Like the fencer who has never been matured under skilful opposition, an author, with any kind of talent, must ever remain but a crude artist apart from the sound, if unpleasant, coaching of the competent critic. Mr. Headon Hill is such an author. To produce anything like an able tale of mystery and intrigue, he requires to be told of his faults or weaknesses, which should be of far more consequence to him than any milkand-water laudation. It is poor art which formulates character through incident, as the first must invariably weaken the force of the other by foreshadowing it. Incident should not be entirely without logical action, yet Mr. Hill would find it rather difficult to explain the logical or characteristic bearing on the tale of such personages as James Trelawney, Norah Bilton, Bob Boscombe, or even the Rev. Peter Boscombe. Was Trelawney simply introduced for the sake of admitting assassins into the house of his employer? If so, such an ordinary piece of villainy seems hardly in keeping with the dignified position of a private secretary. The under-butler, or even a footman, would have been better for such a rôle. Was Norah Bilton simply introduced for the purpose of displaying certain very unconvincing detective propensities on the part of a sprightly lady's companion? Was Bob Boscombe, and his quartette of bloodhounds, simply introduced for the tame discovery of the person of an innocent man? Was the Rev. Peter Boscombe—— But there, we will query no further, trusting that the little we have said in respect to the necessity for a characteristic ground of incident will prove serviceable in the creation of any future drama on the author's part.

A King in Khaki. By H. K. Webster. (Ward, Lock, and Co. 6s.)

THE central figure of this bracing and fascinating romance is the chief of an island company, which had been floated for the purpose of working a rich field of agriculture. Under its first head and organiser the undertaking had proved a complete failure, and the shareholders, mostly composed of working middle-class people, were faced with the total loss of their small investments. The threatened collapse of the company, however, was averted through the energy and enterprise of a new manager named Smith, who has the control of affairs on the island at the opening of the story. A certain millionaire financier and promoter -one Christopher Beaumont-who is on the company's board of directors, decides to carry out a daring scheme of self-aggrandisement at the expense of the innocent and simple shareholders, who know absolutely nothing about the new manager's successful efforts in saving the credit of the company. The intention of this unscrupulous individual is neither more nor less than one of public fraud and robbery. He secretly proposes a reorganisation of the company. The assets of the old company, with its fictitious heavy liabilities, are to be purchased in the name of the new company. By this financial jugglery Beaumont can himself become the actual owner of a sound and highly profitable concern. But he makes one great blunder. He is so over-confident of success as to be blind to the fact of honesty in others. The new manager, for instance, cannot be made to view such business methods in the same light as Beaumont himself views them, and refuses to become a party to such an iniquitous deal. Moreover, Smith possesses what is commonly known as a conscience, and he determines upon taking a course of action by which the trusting shareholders, instead of being swindled out of the profits derived from his hard labours, shall receive their

The ingenious manner in which the young island magnate or Khaki King, fights the financial monarch and accomplishes his object, as well as winning fortune and a charming wife into the bargain, must not be unfolded here.

Readers will find this book most entertaining.

Tumult: A Wessex Love Story. By Wilkinson Sherben.
(Stanley Paul and Co. 6s.)

Love's labours, in the case of Stephen Hillary and Barbara Keech, have a torturing and perplexing time. The deeper the waters of life the greater are its tempests. With two such strong and true natures as Stephen's and Barbara's the irony of obstructed passion is alive with the conflicts of real drama. The storms that work their fury upon the rock-bound limits of Barbara's island home are not more tumultuous, if allied to a wider sphere of disaster, than the tempests which rage in the mysterious depths of the human heart. The strange ordeal of Hillary is one that teaches the utter futility of Quixotic methods in the readjustment of moral ideas. Good and evil can have no particular basis of distinction, and efforts to control such a sense of their sources must always end in the bitterness of failure.

As a love story the book has undeniable charm, the high-spirited grandeur of Barbara's fine womanhood being powerfully depicted. The freedom which is held to be allied to divorce is treated with a wholesome, because objectively moral, sense of judgment, and reflects the absolute grounds of restriction which our unorthodox and loose forms no longer adhere to. Shadrac Dine is an unpleasant, though a real twentieth-century, product, a result of the mean and soulless commercialism which is slowly but surely undermining the more stable props of civilised society. Indeed, it has already destroyed the finer passions of the race, and a story, therefore, which gives such a pure portrayal of the higher and dead instincts of human life should act somewhat as a moral tonic towards the baser passions. Commerce, in fact, has well-nigh killed romance, which is the very glory of the soul. Revive romance, and you revive all the purest passions of the human heart with it.

Opportunity. By MARGARET B. CROSS. (Chatto and Windus. 6s.)

THERE is nothing to inspire interest in Miss Cross's book. Comedy there may be, but it is all very dull and mediocre. Perhaps this is owing to that "not too nice a moral sense" which Mrs. Searle, who is ever ready to seize upon opportunity when it comes within her reach, cultivates so assiduously. Vulgar immorality, even when it is practised to obtain material pleasures for two such characterless creatures as Gertrude and Hyacinth, can never reach to a point of interest, at least with those who possess and value a certain element of refinement. Perhaps, on the other hand, the book fails to interest because it is a sheer piece of mediocre writing. Whatever the fault may be, it certainly offers no "opportunity" to the reviewer to say anything pleasant.

#### MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES

THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS.

At the ordinary meeting on February 22, Mr. James C. Inglis, President, in the chair, the paper read was: "The Hudson River Tunnels of the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad Company," by Charles M. Jacobs, M.Inst.C.E. The following is an abstract of the paper:—

History.—Generally speaking, this system consists of railway tunnels in the cities of New York and New Jersey, connected by tunnels under the Hudson River, locally

known as the North River. The transportation between these large cities had hitherto been effected solely by means of ferry-boats. Projects for the work of tunnelling under this river were long ago under consideration, and in 1874 work was announced on a tunnel between Fifteenth Street, Jersey City, and Morton Street, New York. This scheme was continued intermittently under three different organisations, until 1891, being suspended on several occasions by financial and physical difficulties. In 1902 it was again resumed under a new company, under the direction of the author as chief engineer. At this date the following lengths of tunnel had been built:—

North Tunnel, from New Jersey shaft ...... 3,916 feet.

North Tunnel, from New York shaft ...... 160 feet.

South Tunnel, from New Jersey shaft ...... 570 feet.

On this occasion work was concentrated on the completion of the north tunnel, to demonstrate to the general public the possibility of constructing a tunnel under the Hudson River, and at the same time extensive studies of the whole question of providing a tunnel system in both cities. When the project was thus resumed it was again planned to lay two narrow-gauge tracks in the north tunnel with a special equipment of narrow electric carriages. This plan, however, was abandoned, and a decision was adopted to build also another-the south tunnel-and operate the New Jersey system of electric tramcars to an underground loop terminal, to be located on the block bounded by Christopher Street, West Tenth Street, Greenwich Street, and Hudson Street, New York City. Careful consideration of the volume and destination of the traffic crossing the river by ferry-boats led to the following conclusions: that a single pair of tubes would be insufficient; that another pair should be constructed about a mile further down the river; that the terminal of the uptown tunnel was not properly located, and that the tunnels should be extended from near the river front to the centre of the city of New York, where connection could readily be made with the existing and projected systems of passenger transportation. This led to the adoption of a pair of tunnels crossing the river from the Pennsylvania Station on the Jersey City side to a terminal on Church Street between Cortlandt and Fulton Streets on the New York side; the extension of the uptown system to Thirty-third Street and Sixth Avenue, with a branch about Ninth Street to Fourth Avenue; a tunnel connection on the New Jersey side joining the uptown and downtown systems; and an extension of the downtown system westerly to Summit Avenue, Jersey City. This self-contained and comprehensive scheme led to the abandonment of the plan to use single electrical tramcars and to the adoption of special rolling equipment in the form of electrical multiple-unit eight-car trains.

North Tunnel.—Work was actively conducted on the north Hudson River tunnel, the first ring being put in on October 22, 1902. Considerable difficulty was met with in driving the tunnel through the portion of the bed of the river where the lower portion of the tunnel is in rock and the upper portion in silt. Breaks occurred in the overlying soft material in blasting away the rock, permitting the air to escape and water to come in. These blows were stopped by dumping clay in barges from the surface of the river, thus plugging the break in the river bed. Notwithstanding these and other difficulties, the work progressed, and the tunnel was holed through on March 11, 1904. The north tunnel under the river is 19 feet 54 sinches in outside diameter, being the size determined by the previous company. All the other shield-driven tunnels are 16 feet 7 inches in outside diameter.

South Tunnel.—Work on the south tunnel was commenced on the New Jersey side in January, 1903, and continued with some intermissions. In this tunnel the practice of driving the shield through the silt without

excavation was developed, and a progress of 62 feet of tunnel in 24 hours was made. Difficulties similar to those encountered in the north tunnel were met with in driving the shield across the rock reef, but the tunnel was completed without mishap, being holed through on August 25, 1905.

Downtown Tunnels.—Work on the downtown system of tunnels was started in Jersey City in 1905 by the construction of a shaft near the Pennsylvania Railroad station, called Pier C Shaft; it was located 387 feet south of the nearest tunnel, and a heading in rock connected it with both tunnels. The north tunnel shields were erected and the first ring put in at the shield under Fulton Street, New York City, on February 6, 1906. Work was continued with some delays until the headings were holed through on March 11, 1909. The south tunnel, which is on the line of Cortlandt Street, New York City, was started on January 26, 1906, and was holed through on January 27, 1909. The rock ledge being at a higher level relatively to these tunnels than in the case of the uptown tunnels, they are completely in rock for a distance of about 1,800 feet. All the shield-driven tunnels, aggregating a total length of 7.7 miles, have been constructed under compressed air.

New York Approach.-The land tunnels, or approaches, to the uptown tunnels on the New York side follow the lines of the streets. In passing from one street into another some sharp curves are necessary, and the shields were successfully driven around curves with radii of 150 feet to 168 feet without mishap. Tunnel-work by shield was continued to the intersection of Twelfth Street and Sixth Avenue, and north of this the work was done by cut-andcover methods. The municipal authorities required that the street should not be closed to traffic during the construction of the railway, involving temporarily planking over the street, while at the same time the surface railway and the elevated railway had to be permanently underpinned on the roof of the tunnels, and temporarily supported during construction of the tunnels. The tunnels are of twin section in reinforced concrete, having a continuous centre wall between them, to maintain their separation for the purpose of simplifying the ventilation problem.

New Jersey Approaches.—The approaches on the New Jersey side were partly constructed by the shield method and partly by timbering, and both with the aid of com-At the point where the line connecting the pressed air. uptown and the downtown system joins the uptown system line to Hoboken, a junction was planned, and in order to avoid the level crossing which would have been neces-sary if these tunnels had crossed each other at the same level, tracks for trains moving in opposite directions were placed one above the other, instead of side by side. The New Jersey approaches to the downtown tunnels were largely in the rock west of the Pennsylvania Station, and were so located that they were built without the aid of compressed air by ordinary rock-tunnel methods. A short distance, however, after being out of the rock, it was necessary to construct these tunnels by the aid of compressed air, a shield being used on one tunnel, and looseground timbering methods on the others. The tunnels along Washington Street, connecting the uptown and downtown systems, were built from the Washington Street shaft, and one was driven as a shield tunnel, and the other by looseground timbering methods, both having the aid of comprèssed air.

Switch Enlargements.—The enlargements from the standard-sized tunnel were made at all junction points, to permit the single tunnel to branch into two parts. Several of these were made by ordinary underground tunnelling, and several were made by driving the shield past the point of juncture, and then excavating the enlargement outside the tube by loose-ground tunnel methods, which was then lined with concrete, the iron lining being afterwards removed. In other instances these junctions were made by building the masonry of the complete enlargement on the surface, and then sinking it as a pneumatic caisson to the proper depth.

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Stations.—The stations on the cut-and-cover work on Sixth Avenue were made in the ordinary way, and consisted of a series of groined arches supported by cast-iron columns and the concrete side and centre walls. Entrances to the stations were obtained in most instances by stairways through adjoining shops. The stations at Ninth Street, Christopher Street, and the Eric Railroad were built by first driving the tunnels and lining them, then excavating between the tubes and springing a concrete arch between the tunnels, and finally removing the side of the tunnels previously driven, and substituting steel columns therefor. The Hoboken Station is a three-track, stub-end terminal, built by cut-and-cover methods, the roof consisting of a series of groined arches supported by cast-iron columns. Pennsylvania Station is in rock formation, and consists of two separate concrete-lined tunnels, each of 23ft. 6in. span; each tunnel contains one track and one platform. Access to the steam-railway terminus above is obtained by four hydraulic plunger elevators, and to the street by two such elevators.

Church Street Terminal.—The terminal of the downtown system on the New York side is situated in Church Street between Cortlandt and Fulton Streets, and as the tracklevel is 37ft, below the surface of the street, or 12ft. below mean-tide level, and is located in sand formation, it was necessary to surround the entire site to be occupied by the station by a wall of impervious material. This wall was sunk to the underlying rock to an average depth of about 78ft. below the surface, and in the form of pneumatic caissons built in sections about 30ft. long. An office building twenty-two stories high was built over this site, and a basement floor below the level of the tracks. The foundations for the internal columns supporting the building were also sunk by means of pneumatic caissons, and, after sinking, the steel columns were erected on these foundations. The floors immediately below the street were placed before excavating below them in order to take the thrust of the outside walls. The excavation was then continued until the next floor below was reached, when it was erected, and thus continued until the bottom was reached.

Ventilation.-The tunnels are ventilated by exhaust fans removing the foul air from the tunnels, and maintaining an air-current in the direction in which trains run, fresh air being drawn in at the stairways, supplemented by blowers blowing fresh air into the tunnels at various points.

Track.—The track consists of 85lb. steel rails, spiked to sleepers on broken-stone ballast. Steel tie-plates are used, and also screw spikes in, in diameter. On the sharper curves manganese-steel rails are used.

Power-house.—The power-house for furnishing electric current for the road is located in Jersey City, and is equipped with two 3,000-kw. and two 6,000-kw. turbo-

Carriages.—Special equipment of steel carriages is used, each carriage being 48ft. 3in. long by 8ft. 10in. wide and 12ft. in height, mounted on bogie trucks. The total weight of the car, with 100 passengers, is 88,550lb.

Surveys.-Triangulations and surveys for the setting of the tunnels had to be carried out with great care, the extreme accuracy with which the lines were transferred down the shaft being demonstrated by the precision with which the various headings met.

Cost.—The total cost of the work was about £6,000,000 for the 121 miles of single-track tunnel comprising the

Concrete.-A marked characteristic of the work was the freedom with which concrete and reinforced concrete was used as a substitute for other forms of masonry.

Stability of Tunnels in Silt.—The question of the stability of tunnels in silt was given very careful consideration, and it was decided that the bearing-power of the silt was sufficient to maintain the tunnels in equilibrium considering the light character of the trains to be operated. In the case of the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnels crossing the Hudson River, of which the author is also engineer, provision was made in the work for the sinking of piles 15ft. apart through the silt to a solid stratum on account of the heavier

character of the railway equipment, but during construction extensive experiments and investigations were made which led to the decision that these supports were unnecessary, and they were, therefore, not constructed.

Organisation and Staff.-The staff was organised into two main departments—engineering and construction. The engineering department had to do with the design, survey, inspection, setting-out, records, etc.; and the construction department was charged with the actual direction of the workmen, the ordering of the materials and supplies, the operation of the power plants, etc. Both departments reported to the author as chief engineer, and to the deputy chief engineer, Mr. J. Vipond Davies. The uptown tunnels were opened for traffic on February 25, 1908, and the downtown tunnels on July 19, 1909.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

"GAELIC BARDS" AND "CELTIC 'GLOOM.'"

To the Editor of THE ACADEMY.

Sin,—The interesting and instructive articles on "Gaelic ards" and "Celtic 'Gloom'" prove conclusively what an Bards" and "Celtic 'Gloom'" prove conclusively what an engaging study of this nature could be made if carried further and made to deal with the history of the ancient Cymric bards. In various directions there are similar elements governing many periods of their history, but there is also a vast amount of strange and peculiar difference, the study of which would help to explain the complexity of the rise and fall of Gaelic poesy.

The Cymric bards, or "ministrels" of the ancient Britons, must have been in their day persons of great dignity and importance, for all the great feudal families included the bard in their retinue; an honoured place in the household was his, for their retinue; an noncired place in the household was his, for he moved about with his patron wherever he went. He was the great incentor to war, and also the voice proclaiming heroic deeds; the hero was crowned by him, his fame was the work of the poet, for the elegies of those past ages prove at the present day the high place heroes claimed in ancient Cymric poetry. The Irish Gaels even had not the exclusive claim for satirical verse, for this power was often and poignantly used by the Cymric bards with tragic effect; they often terrorised the land with their satirical dirges. There are other similarities, but Cymric bards with tragic effect; they often terrorised the land with their satirical dirges. There are other similarities, but the value of this contribution will prove adequate according to what extent it can claim a special study of the Cymric bards alongside with the other Celtic branches.

The writer of the articles claims, "The Celtic peoples have always been firm believers in the theory of heredity." Now, as far as my study goes, I cannot agree that this is true of the ancient Cymric bards—more than it is true of the nation's sentiment now. Poetic talent did not necessarily run in the blood:

ment now. Poetic talent did not necessarily run in the blood; there may be exceptions, but they only proved the rule. Contrary also to the history of the Gaelic bards, the bardic order of the Cymru has lived a continuous life throughout the centuries, in spite of the vast changes of government prevailing in that little land; it has had its many vicissitudes, but it has voiced the heart of the nation throughout the various decades in a truthful and sound sense, and to-day is more virile than at any time

heart of the nation throughout the various decades in a truthful and sound sense, and to-day is more virile than at any time in its history.

The writer further states that the office of "Chief Bard in Scotland and Ireland has long since passed away," and wistfully laments the fact and advocates its resuscitation. In Wales the office of "Chief Poet" has been a living institution for centuries, and is now more hale and virile than at any time in its history. The office of "Arch-Druid," or chief poet, is a living power in the land—not like the English Laureateship; the present holder is not only the highest authority on the forms and rules of poesy, but is also an intellectual poet of the first rank, and attributed to be the father of a certain school of poetry.

My space will necessarily be cramped to make an adequate contribution to the second article on "Celtic 'Gloom." I am glad to be able to follow the writer, and state that the Celtic "gloom" is a thing apart from the normal and national life of the Celtic races. These are greatly influenced by the physical and moral forces passing over their lands at various periods. For example, the great religious and puritanical movement influenced the poetry of Wales for centuries, and it was not till the middle of the nineteenth century that it freed itself from its trammels. Occasionally gleams of the submerged, suppressed nature would be bursting out, but on the whole there was a certain gloom prevailing, proving how outward circumstances can have such a baneful influence. Wales in the fourteenth

century produced the greatest lyrical poet of the period in the person of Dafydd ap Gwilym, whose muse was ever clear and luminous, and even more hale and jovial than Herrick's—no Celtic "gloom" has thrown his lyre out of tune. What a calamity it is that his beautiful poetry is as a sealed book to the average Englishman owing to the language! The following centuries produced many average poets, but it could not be said of them that they were governed by the minor key, in spite of being a conquered race, with its natural resultant effects.

The study of Celtic poetry, to my mind, to be complete should include a survey of the chief bards of the Cymru, and the work would well repay the student that would take it in hand.

#### THE RADICAL GOVERNMENT. To the Editor of THE ACADEMY.

Sir, As a justification for having accused the members of the Opposition of making "the vilest imputations on his light of Government." Mr. Lloyd George said: "Here is sir,—As a justification for having accused the members of the Opposition of making "the vilest imputations on his Majesty's Government," Mr. Lloyd George said: "Here is what was said by Lord H. Cecil: 'The Prime Minister attaches no importance to his assurances.' . . . I think the noble Lord ought to be ashamed of making such a charge. It is very difficult to describe it within Parliamentary language." Parliamentary language." Parliamentary language." Parliamentary language. ought to be ashamed of making such a charge. It is very difficult to describe it within Parliamentary language." Parliamentary language must be an awful nuisance to Mr. Lloyd George. I know it would be a nuisance to me if I had to restrict myself to it in describing him or the Radical Government; indeed, it is quite inadequate for such a purpose. If Mr. Lloyd George thinks that the Prime Minister does attach any importance to his assurances, he must also think that he is either one of the most miserable men in the kingdom, or without a conscience altogether.

Mr. Asquith has certainly broken pledges. He has also behaved like a poltroon and a toady, which makes me think that he is really conscience-stricken. He has broken his pledges and toadied to the Nationalists through fear; now he is afraid of what he has done, and would like to break a few more pledges to put himself right again. Altogether he presents a pitiable spectacle, and, as he is the Prime Minister of England, a humiliating spectacle, too. This comes of forming political friendships with people like Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Winston Churchill, and Mr. Ure.

But what of Lord Morley, Sir Edward Grey, Mr. Haldane, Mr. Burns, and those other members of the Cabinet who have still reputations to preserve? If they remain in the Cabinet they will run a grave risk of getting themselves.

who have still reputations to preserve? If they remain in the Cabinet they will run a grave risk of getting themselves tarred with the same brush. The people of this country must, if they have any relf-respect, insist on being governed only by men that are as scrupulously honest in their political as they must be in their private lives. Let us at least have an honourable Government, even if it be a Radical one. To quote from a famous sonnet of Wordsworth:

"We shall exult, if they who rule the land Be men who hold its many blessings dear, Wise, upright, valiant; not a servile band, Who are to judge of danger which they fear, And honour which they do not understand."

The latter part of the quotation will serve excellently as a description of the present Government.

THOMAS HERBERT LEE.

#### VOX STELLARUM.

#### To the Editor of THE ACADEMY.

Sir,-As your correspondent Mr. Phillips apparently includes me amongst the "people who subserve to amphibiological vaticinations," I can only reply by imploring him to write in English that ordinary mortals can understand. I can spell this much out, however, that he "challenges any astrologer under this much out, however, that he "challenges any astrologer under the sun to prove to him that the horoscope per se reveals a body of details as to the character of the individual and the probable trend of his life." Well, there are plenty of horoscopes available, goodness knows, but I will ask him how he explains away Mr. Geo. Wild's test reading of Mr. Pearson's nativity, published in "Borderland"? The percentage of success there is far too great to be explainable on the mere hitand-miss principle. I think if Mr. Phillips and other critics were to learn how to cast a horoscope and judge it, and then make a number of trials, we should hear less about astrology being an exploded science. I have no time to write a long letter, besides having some regard for the Editor's space.

Arthur Mee. ARTHUR MEE.

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Thomas Carlyle as a Critic of Literature. By F. W. Roe, Ph.D. Columbia University Press, New York. \$1.25c. net.

Alt-Celtischer Sprachschatz. By Alfred Holder. Part 19. B. G. Trubner, Leipzig. 8 marks.

Accidents of an Antiquary's Life. By D. G. Hogarth. Illustrated. Macmillan and Co. 7s. 6d. net.

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